

## Cambridge Public Library 23<sup>rd</sup> Annual Youth Poetry Awards

On May 26, 2022 the Cambridge Public Library celebrated the 23<sup>rd</sup> year of the Youth Poetry Awards with readings from this year's winning poets at the Main Library. The 54 winning poems were selected from among nearly 800 entries from K-8 students in 24 public and private schools in Cambridge. Each winner received a certificate and a poetry collection. We are grateful to the Friends of the Cambridge Public Library which has funded the prizes for this program for many years.

Following are this year's winning poems, in order as they were presented at the program. Congratulations to all who entered. We look forward to seeing your poems next year!



1. Ingrid Glenn  
"The Tree by the Sea"
2. Abby Garrett  
"The Willow Tree"
3. Aram Klotz  
"Sharks"
4. Josh Chatterjee  
"Caterpillars on the Loose"
5. Augustus Palmer  
"Caterpillar"
6. Mahzala Zahoor  
"Trees Have Leaves"
7. Ariella Stein  
"Rescue Our Rainforests"
8. Andres Calcedo  
"Spring"
9. Ravi Sahni  
"basketball"
10. Jovani Kong  
"I Am a Bat"
11. Marko Gagoski  
"Relaxing"
12. Sydney Dana  
"Los dragones"/"Dragons"
13. Evan Vicary  
"The psychic mysterious robot..."
14. Ziv Heldman  
"The Sea and the Water Combine to Make a Big Big Ocean"
15. Gabriella Morales  
"My Dog"
16. Eva Brushett  
"Brown"
17. Analucia Lateiner  
"Bacon"
18. Jeremy Mai  
"Clouds Change"
19. Siawash Tamanna  
سنڱي/"Sangy"
20. Sayhan Islam  
"I Am Sayhan"
21. Aurora Ramsay  
"Trees' Jobs"
22. Savanna Array  
"Tobin Montessori School"
23. Vincent Chen  
"Dust"
24. Adele Umeki  
"The Coolest Tree"
25. Zibby Kuzmick  
"Spring, Autumn, Winter"
26. Gideon Reid  
"L O V E"
27. Ruthie Brown  
"Under the Golden Sun"
28. Margot Brod  
"Cats"
29. Elan Hersh  
"Teenager"
30. Landon Sylvera  
"Landon"
31. Ishmael Shareef  
"Cucumba=Cucumber"
32. Tessa St. Lawrence  
"sticky slimy mushroom people..."
33. Lillian Saif  
"Music"
34. Estella Lateiner  
"La música"/"Music"
35. Elijah Washington  
"Soup"
36. Veronica Walton  
"Revenge"
37. Theodore Love  
"Anger"
38. Emma Gurjal  
"Truth"
39. Jaiden Gaeta-Morrison  
"When I'm down..."
40. Abby Colbourn  
"To-do List"
41. Onyx Hopwood  
"The Perfect Apple"
42. Arden Vigoda  
"Blue"
43. Arsen Frigerio  
"The lighthouse in the fog"
44. Lucia Brauer  
"El océano"/"The Ocean"
45. Jack Williams  
"Whoosh, beware..."
46. Oisin Stephens  
"The Poison Tree"
47. Caedmon Huang  
"Poem of Life"
48. Hazel Koschwanez  
"Lost"
49. Cassie Kopp  
"Understand"
50. Maia Soni  
I am down in the dark..."
51. Malin Kuo  
"9/11"
52. Stella Dia Noelke  
"Арынтво"/"Society"
53. Clara Zala  
"A Powerful Community"/ 강력한 커뮤니티/ Galinga bendruomenė
54. David Xiong  
"Three Unedited Short Experimental Thoughts of Wisdom"

# **"The Tree by the Sea"**

**Ingrid Glenn**

*Martin Luther King Jr. School  
Second Place, Kindergarten*

There was a tree  
By the sea  
The tree had a bee  
The bee was striped  
As you can see

# **"The Willow Tree"**

**Abby Garrett**

*Shady Hill School*

*Honorable Mention, Fifth Grade*

Rough Bark

Smooth Tender Branches

Soft

Delicate Leaves That Flutter Down Like Snowflakes

Roots

Long and Snakelike

Slithering Through the Ground

Through The Dirt

Anchoring The tree

Like a boat on a choppy sea



# "Sharks"

**Aram Klotz**

*Fayerweather Street School  
Honorable Mention, First Grade*

Sharks can eat  
A lot of meat



# **"Caterpillars on the Loose"**

(about what if his classroom caterpillars escaped)

**Josh Chatterjee**  
*St. Peter School*  
*Second Place, Second Grade*

Caterpillars crawl  
Very slowly down the hall  
Making fuzzy balls



# "Caterpillar"

**Augustus Palmer**

*Fletcher Maynard Academy*

*Second Place, First Grade*

I am a caterpillar  
Scootching on a leaf  
I am eating along the way  
The leaves taste sweet and fresh  
I am a caterpillar  
Fat and plump  
I will become  
A butterfly soon enough  
And when I do  
I will be more than  
You can imagine.



# **"Trees Have Leaves"**

**Mahzala Zahoor**

*Haggerty School*

*Honorable Mention, Third Grade*

Trees have leaves.  
cats climb up the  
trees to the sun  
going up is the  
fun. Trees need  
to stay alive for  
humankind to  
survive.

Inside  
the  
trees  
it's so  
dark  
trees  
are  
protected  
by  
bark.



# **"Rescue Our Rainforests"**

***Ariella Stein***

*Baldwin School*

*First Place, Third Grade*

Titan fuzzy arms hug a Durian tree.  
She is 97% of you and me.

An epicurean eating,  
Pungent, custardy, Durian.

Rumble echoes machinery.  
Shrill metallic chainsaws threaten nearby trees.

She hugs tighter to her Durian tree.  
She is 97% of you and me.

Shop Amazon, and you will see many a Once-ler selling their Thneeds,  
Sneeds, Tweeds, and plastic Whodackydeeds.

She hugs tighter to her Durian tree.  
She is 97% of you and me.

For your birthday, what will it be? Save a fuzzy titan orangutan or  
buy another Thneed, Sneed, Tweed, or plastic Whodackydeed?

# "Spring"

**Andres Caicedo**

*Morse School*

*Third Place, First Grade*

I see flowers  
I hear bees buzzing  
I smell strawberries  
I taste carrots  
I feel happy



# **"b a s k e t b a l l"**

(inspired by Lemonade and Other Poems Squeezed from a Single Word  
by Bob Raczka)

**Ravi Sahni**

*Tobin Montessori School  
First Place, Second Grade*

a  
tall  
task

a  
basket

a  
ball

beat  
a  
best  
state

at  
last

tell  
all



# **"I Am a Bat"**

**Jovani Kong**

*Fletcher Maynard Academy  
Honorable Mention, First Grade*

Play baseball  
Swing me hard  
And I will slap  
That ball  
To Africa baby  
So swing me hard



# **"Relaxing"**

**Marko Gagoski**

*Haggerty School*

*Honorable Mention, Fourth Grade*

Relaxing is nice

Chillin' drillin' havin' a nice time

Being chill

Hitting the block

In a hammock being like, what, what!?

Chillin'

It's the way I roll

That's Relaxation

# Los dragones

**Sydney Dana**

*Amigos School*

*First Place, Fourth Grade*

Bestias del cielo  
Volando, volando para siempre.  
Son murciélagos de cristal,  
Fantasmas de las montañas,  
Monstruos del océano.  
Son pájaros gigantes,  
Bestias del cielo.

## "Dragons"

Beasts of the sky  
Flying, flying forever.  
They are bats made of crystal,  
Ghosts of the mountains,  
Monsters of the sea.  
They are gigantic birds,  
Beasts of the sky.



**(Untitled)**

**Evan Vicary**

*Peabody School*

*Honorable Mention, Second Grade*

the psychic mysterious robot  
walks into the infinite distortion room  
the electricity teleports  
the robots are happy



***"The Sea and The Water Combine Together To Make A Big Big Ocean"***

**Ziv Heldman**

*Cambridge Friends School  
First Place, Kindergarten*

The sea and the water  
Combine together  
To make a  
Big  
Big Ocean.  
You see, the sea  
Is elemental bees.





# **"My Dog"**

**Gabriella Morales**

*Benjamin Banneker School  
Third Place, Kindergarten*

My dog is a boy  
His eyes are brown and golden  
Sometimes they light up



# **"Brown"**

**Eva Brushett**

*Haggerty School  
Third Place, First Grade*

Brown is a dog,  
And a piece of dirt,  
And the feeling of really wet mud.  
Brown is the taste of a chocolate bunny,  
And the smell of warm chocolate milk.  
Brown makes me feel like an explorer.  
It is the sound of a dove.  
Brown is beautiful and great.  
Brown is one of my favorite colors.



# "Bacon"

**Analucía Lateiner**

*Amigos School*

*Honorable Mention, Second Grade*

Oh bacon, you are  
my friend though  
when I eat you,  
you come to an end.  
You are crisp,  
and crunchy.  
I cherish you.  
Sadly, eating you  
is something  
humans do.  
Crunch!  
Crunch!  
Off you go!



# **"Clouds Change"**

**Jeremy Mai**

*Morse School*

*First Place, First Grade*

Clouds change  
into a turtle  
it was a jagged  
turtle and  
next it turned  
into a sheep  
and it kept on  
changing  
until the rain dropped  
And it made a sound  
drip drop  
drip drop...

# سنگی

**Siawash Tamanna**

*Martin Luther King, Jr. School*

*First Place, Second Grade*

لاک پستی داشتم  
با نام سنگی  
با صورت خندان، قلبی مهربان  
خیلی قشنگ بود  
در درس حساب خیلی زرنگ بود  
در یک روز کامل آفتابی  
زیر آسمان صاف و آبی  
از سنگش آمد بیرون  
پرسیدم  
چرا؟-  
گفت:  
آنجا تنگ بود-  
ما رفتیم گردش در کوچه  
ما شدیم رفیق با مورچه  
پدر کلانم آنجا بود با یک دامن کلوچه  
برای من و مورچه و سنگی  
قصه گفت از کارهای جن و پری  
بیچاره سنگی ترسیده بود خیلی  
خندیدیم و خندیدیم  
دنبال لاک سنگی دویدیم

*English version next page*

## **"Sangy"**

### **Siawash Tamanna**



I had a turtle  
I named it Sangy (rock).  
It had a smiling face and a kind heart.  
It was very beautiful.  
It was very smart in arithmetic.  
On a bright sunny day  
under a clear blue sky,  
Sangy came out of its shell.  
I asked, "Why?"  
"It was too tight in there," it said.  
We went for a walk one day.  
We made friends with some ants.  
Grandpa brought a bag of cookies  
for me, the ants, and Sangy.  
Grandpa told us stories of fairy tales  
and how they work.  
The stories scared poor Sangy  
who now didn't know where to hide.  
We were laughing hard  
as we ran after Sangy's shell

# **"I Am Sayhan"**

**Sayhan Islam**

*Martin Luther King Jr. School  
First Place, First Grade*

I am from the roosters that wake me up.  
I am from the lychees that dance through my body.  
I am from the mosquitos that bite me to sleep in my home country.  
I am as fast as a cheetah.  
I am a soccer player that is quiet like a fly.  
I am super-sneaky like a ninja.  
I am Sayhan.



# **"Trees' Jobs"**

**Aurora Ramsay**

*Tobin Montessori School  
Second Place, Third Grade*

Paper so thin and smooth  
comes from me  
the tree.

Oxygen comes from me  
the tree.  
You need me to breathe.

Crunchy apples come from me  
the tree.  
Would you like something to munch on then call me.

Shade: I give you shade when  
It's hot. When it's  
too hot for you, come to  
me so I can block you.

I don't need money to work for you.....  
because money comes from me the tree.





# **"Tobin Montessori School"**

**Savanna Aray**

*Tobin Montessori School  
Third Place, Second Grade*

Flat as a pancake, now,  
they need to build a new school.  
It was alive, with hexagon classrooms.  
What a garden, it was very green, so green,  
full of sugar snap peas, and a cherry tree.  
Crab apple tree we could climb,  
And tons of crab apples we could  
Munch on, lots of crab apples.  
There was a playground with monkey bars,  
You could be like a monkey,  
my hands were so calloused.  
Basketball, baseball, soccer, all you can play.  
Our mascot is a Tiger and still is at our new  
location for Tobin.  
Tobin is my favorite school.



# **"Dust"**

**Vincent Chen**

*Peabody School*

*Third Place, First Grade*

How did you get here

Little speck of dust?

Did you sail with a giant dust wind,

Or travel with a dusty truck

Along on a high road?

Oh, dust, oh dust

How did you get here?



# **"The Coolest Tree"**

**Adele Umeki**

*Tobin Montessori School  
Second Place, Fifth Grade*

Oak trees, pretty cool  
Palm trees might have to duel

Birch trees have paperbark  
Pine trees leave sap and a mark

I like white pine and the maple tree  
Gastric cocoas have what it takes to be!

Honey crisps, Delicious  
Mahogany's name sure sounds fictitious

Cottonwoods in summer, snow, paranoia!  
Curiosity as tall as a sequoia

Curiosity like a willow branch never stops  
But what is the coolest tree?

Perhaps there is Not 1 but 3  
Dogwood vs cherry  
Colors, pop  
Marowoube trees, too many to see

The coolest tree of course is  
The family TREE!



# **Three Seasons of Haiku**

**Zibby Kuzmick**

*Peabody School*

*Third Place, Third Grade*

## **“Spring”**

Buds are on the trees  
The rain waters the flowers  
Spring will be here soon

## **“Autumn”**

The leaves are changing  
The old leaves are falling down  
Autumn is coming

## **“Winter”**

The snow is falling  
A cold wind is in the air  
Winter is now here

# "LOVE" (Acrostic)

**Gideon Reid**

*Fayerweather Street School  
Second Place, First Grade*

**L**ove my mom and dad

**O**bviously

**V**ery much

**E**qually



# **"Under The Golden Sun"**

**Ruthie Brown**

*Shady Hill School*

*Honorable Mention, Sixth Grade*

A tree under the dappled light  
Who looks so small and shines so bright  
Whose tiny figure holds so much might  
Under the golden sun  
A little mouse who runs around  
Feet padding on the forest ground  
Who has much speed when they bound  
Under the golden sun  
A bee who lands upon a flower  
Collecting pollen in the morning shower  
Who has a grand feeling of power  
Under the golden sun  
A place with love for each other  
Joy comes when among another  
Sister, Parent, Sibling, Brother  
Under the golden sun

# **"Cats"**

*Margot Brod  
Peabody School  
Third Place, Third Grade*

Cats sleep all day and night  
They bask in the sunlight  
Cats can be jerks  
You never know where a cat lurks  
They have so many hiding places  
And they love high spaces  
Cats eat disgusting things  
They think they're kings and queens  
Early in the morning they will ask for food  
Cats are very rude



# **"Teenager"**

**Elan Hersh**

*Fayerweather Street School*

*Third Place, Second Grade*

Teenager

Picky, aloof

Watching, eye-rolling, avoiding

Plays with me monthly

Sister



# **"Landon"**

## **Landon Sylvera**

*Fletcher Maynard Academy*

*Third Place, Fourth Grade*

Landon

Son of Alleny

Student, athlete, artist

Loves Beyblade, Pokemon, and Yugio

Who gives huge hugs, flourishing friendships, and lovely laughs

Who dreams to be an animal expert

And to do my best at everything I possibly can

Sylvera



# **"Cucumba = Cucumber"**

**Ishmael Shareef**

*Fayerweather Street School*

*First Place, Third Grade*

**C**ucumba, cucumba,

**U**nda de leves of de cucumba tree

**C**ucumba everywhere u can see

**U** might say no cucumba tree

**M**aybe u right or maybe me,

**B**reak'n cucumba will send u to jail

**A**lso cucumba will hit u like hail

**C**ucumba skin is sharp like nail,

**U**nda de skin is cucumba fruit

**C**ucumba also make good juice

**U**p over cucumba is big blue sky

**M**ake sure area is very bright,

**B**abe cucumba mean u no do right

**A**lso have a lot of electrolytes!

*(Untitled)*

**Tessa St. Lawrence**

*Peabody School*

*Second Place, Second Grade*

sticky slimy mushroom people  
slide into a battle room

they know the possibilities are endless  
and then...  
BOOM!

the sticky slimy mushroom people

see a fire dragon

now things are going to get interesting...

# "Music"

**Lillian Saif**

*Amigos School*

*Honorable Mention, First Grade*

The flute goes *weeee, weeee*

The drum goes *tum, tum*

The keyboard goes *pring, pring, pring*

The guitar goes *strim, strim*

And the music goes *weeee, tum,*

*Pring, strim*

*Tum, tum, tum, tum.*



## **"La música"**

**Estella Lateiner**

*Amigos School*

*Second Place, Sixth Grade*

Cuando hay silencio  
Y cuando no sabes dónde estás  
La música te salva  
Y te carga hasta donde quieres estar

La música es tan poderosa  
Cómo un león  
Cuando la música se escucha  
El león ruge  
Si no tengo Música,  
Me pierdo

La música es fuego  
La música es el viento  
Refrescante en un día  
Innecesariamente caluroso

La música me levanta como helio  
Me pone en la pista  
De mi futuro

La música me enseña,  
es mi guía

Es un río qué fluye  
Y cuando el río pasa,  
Yo escucho

*(English language version next page)*

## **"Music"**

***Estella Lateiner***

When there is silence  
And when you don't know where you are  
Music saves you  
And it carries you where you want to go

The music is so powerful  
Like a lion  
When music is heard  
The lion roars  
Without music  
I am lost.

Music is fire  
Music is a soothing  
Wind on an  
Unnecessarily hot day

Music lifts me up like helium  
It puts me on the path  
Of my destiny

Music teaches me,  
It is my guide

It is a flowing river,  
And when the river passes,  
I listen



# "Soup"

**Elijah Washington**  
*Peabody School*  
*Second Place, Third Grade*

Soup  
Hot tasty  
Eating drinking slurping  
Noodles chicken carrots watery  
Slurping dripping spilling  
Juicy yummy  
Broth



# **"Revenge"**

**Veronica Walton**

*Peabody School*

*Honorable Mention, Second Grade*

a jealous hot sauce  
wanted revenge  
on a mysterious cheese  
all because cheese  
got more popular



# **"Anger"**

*Theodore Love*

*Amigos School/Escuela Amigos  
Honorable Mention, Second Grade*

My hands  
turn into fists  
My face  
scrunches up  
I grind my teeth  
Now leave  
me alone



# “Truth”

**Emma Gurjal**

*Fayerweather Street School  
Third Place, Fifth Grade*

My gray skies inside  
Don't match the patch work brightness  
That surrounds me



*(Untitled)*

**Jaiden Gaeta-Morrison**  
*King Open School*  
*Honorable Mention, Third Grade*

When I'm down on the ground I pick myself back up again.

I go further. Into a deep sea.

When I'm down on the ground, i jump out like a cat in a hat.

When I'm stuck like a bug

I get out of the tangle wires I'm stuck in.

I'm a Butterfly coming out of a cocoon

I'm free.



## **"To-do list"**

**Abby Colbourn**

*Baldwin School*

*Honorable Mention, Fourth Grade*

In my life I want to accomplish  
So many things, I want to astonish  
I want to soar high in the air  
Make a thousand braids in my hair  
I want to go rock climbing  
Make more poems with rhyming  
I want to grow smart,  
I want a big heart.  
In my life I want to accomplish  
So many things, I want to astonish  
But yet here I am  
10 years in my life  
And barely one exciting thing  
Is caught in my sight.



## **"The Perfect Apple"**

**Onyx Hopwood**

*Cambridge Street Upper School*

*Third Place, Eighth Grade*

The apple wasn't perfect.

But none were.

All the apples in the world

Had some

Bruises

Scrapes

Or scars.

The harder he looked for the perfect apple,

The more he saw their flaws.

He traveled the world looking for

The apple,

The perfect apple.

He searched until he grew

Old and gray

And he couldn't look anymore.

The man never found

The perfect apple

Because the perfect apple

Doesn't exist.

## **"Blue"**

**Arden Vigoda**

*Fayerweather Street School*

*Third Place, Sixth Grade*

Vivid, vibrant  
Violet, blue,  
The shade of rain  
The shade of dew.

The whispering wind  
That speaks my name,  
The laugh of thunder  
The song of rain.

The foreboding gray  
That stained the sky,  
Turns to blue  
The storm sails by.

Then sapphire light  
Shines through the gray,  
Then the darkness  
Melts away.

The glorious light  
Resurrects the earth,  
The brilliant blue,  
The color of birth.

Vivid, vibrant  
Violet, blue,  
The sky, the earth  
Are born anew.



## **"The lighthouse in the fog"**

**Arsen Frigerio**

*Graham & Parks School*

*First Place, Fifth Grade*

The lighthouse inside the blindness  
called the fog

The lighthouse is a perched owl with one eye

Filled with shining gold

Turning its head all around to have us

See

Again.



**Lucía Brauer**  
*Amigos School*  
*Second Place, Fourth Grade*

## **El océano**

El océano  
Brillante como la luna  
En la noche

Un santuario  
De criaturas  
Escondidas

Con luces radiantes  
En sitios  
Oscuros como  
Un espacio infinito

Como un  
Laberinto  
Debajo de una manta  
De azul brillante

## **The ocean**

The ocean  
Brilliant like the moon  
At night

A sanctuary  
Of hidden  
Creatures

With radiant lights  
In dark places  
Like infinite space

Like a labyrinth  
Under a blanket  
Of brilliant blue





(Untitled)

**Jack Williams**

*Buckingham Browne and Nichols School  
First Place, Seventh Grade*

*Whoosh*, beware, for your food is in danger  
Run as fast as you can, you are its savior  
They peck and persist, you are no stranger  
For they are hungry, for the flavor you savor

The double U on paintings  
The scourge of the beaches  
Your food for their tastings  
Not indifferent to peaches

*Whoosh*, beware, for your food is in danger  
Run as fast as you can, you are its savior  
They peck and persist, you are no stranger  
For they are hungry, when you rest they make labor

If edible they will take it  
Cake, cookies, chips, and fries  
Even if you do not permit  
Swooping down, raining from the skies

*Whoosh*, beware, for your food is in danger  
Run as fast as you can, you are its savior  
They peck and persist, you are no stranger  
For they are hungry, for the flavor you savor

The bird that's most hated  
God's least favorite creation  
Spot them, you vacated  
*My piece of pie! What in tarnation!*

# "The Poison Tree"

**Oisin Stephens**

Fayerweather Street School  
First Place, Sixth Grade



Deep in the dark thick woods

Is an old being. Her thoughts stir in the center of her soul caked  
in complex toxins.

All she's seen is greed in a form of evil and tar thick selfishness,  
She lives solitary

Not a scale of forgiveness on her cloak of blade like leaves  
The hellish knives that cloak her gleam and grin and spin fiery poisons  
She stands tall like an angel

She stands

Stands

Stands there all alone

But any foolish toxic beast with the wit and pride to cross her path will  
be dead

Forever gone

Like all those dreams left in the dust.

Like they never existed.

Like grains of spiny sand in the dry vast desert

But she remembers those fools

Those unforgivable terrible beasts in seek of pleasure and power

She remembers

She stays there in spite of the wicked greedy toxic  
beings that cross her path.

She's the poison tree.

# **"Poem of life"**

**Caedmon Huang**

*Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. School  
First Place, Fourth Grade*

This is a poem  
About a poem  
That tells us of a poem  
That says everything is good

A poem  
That tells  
The story  
That you want

A poem  
About  
Mythical creatures  
And unworldly foods

A poem  
About  
Immortality  
And Magic

A poem  
About  
All good things  
And no bad ones

This is a poem  
About a poem  
It's your story  
About what you want

*(continued next page)*

*(Caedmon Huang, p. 2 of 3)*

This is a poem  
A poem about  
well  
everything

This poem  
includes  
things  
like

Trees  
Life  
water  
and ...

Just About  
Everything  
That's  
Wonderful

Not Good  
Not Okay  
Not Great  
Not Average

It's Outworldly  
It's Wonderful  
It's Amazing  
It's What You Want

It's about forests  
Thousands of trees  
Wildlife Thriving  
Less Pollution  
Maybe your poem...  
Rhymes ?  
As  
In

*(Caedmon Huang, p. 3 of 3)*

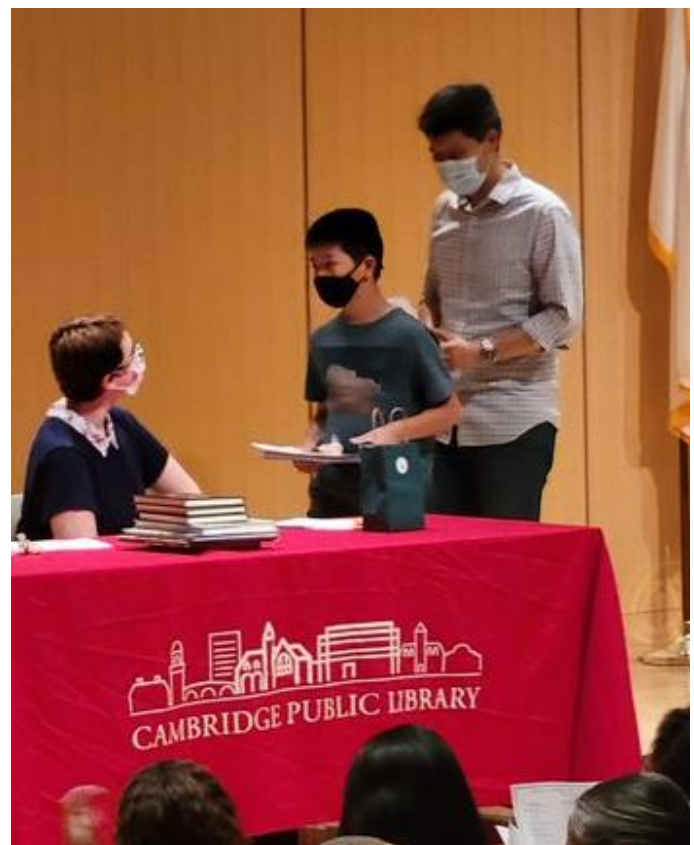
"There once were some trees  
Three trees  
All full with leaves  
But the leaves fall  
As if the trees sneezed"

Or Maybe it's a haiku?  
With  
A total of...  
Seventeen syllables

Ocean Waves Crash  
Twelve Leaves Fall To The Ground  
It is Almost Autumn

Or Maybe a haiku  
And A  
Rhyme  
Combined?

Ocean Waves Crash  
Someone Develops A Rash  
Alas It's A Bad Day



# "Lost"

**Hazel Koschwanez**

*Amigos School*

*First Place, Eighth Grade*

## *Adjective*

1. Unable to find one's way; not knowing one's whereabouts

I live in a world of chartered territories,  
Of location trackers  
And maps by the dozens,

I live in a world of dark alleys,  
That are featured in "America's top 50 places to visit"  
Of falling apart barns in the far-out country labeled as "rustic" and so  
"cottagecore"

I live in a world where it's impossible to get lost  
As long as you have your phone with you

The directions are clear,  
2 rights and a left then straightforward,  
you can't miss it,  
Yet I always do.

I walk right on by,  
My eyes on the ground.

I float through crowds of people all heading in the same direction yet I  
still don't know where to go

2. Denoting something that has been taken away or cannot be recovered

I walk through memory lane,  
Losing myself in past experiences,  
Old memories being shoved away and new ones flooding in,

Every moment in time taunts me and mocks me,  
With what could have been done better,  
With what I should have done better.

*(continued next page)*

*Hazel Koschwanez, p. 2 of 2)*

They drag me down

I walk the streets of the city I have lived in since I entered this world  
with a glazed look in my eyes and a slump in my shoulders,  
My eyes still fixed on the ground like maybe that's how I will find my  
way

A tourist stops me and asks for directions to the nearest coffee shop,  
I shrug my shoulders and shake my head at them,  
Rights and lefts never helped anyone anyways.



# **"Understand"**

**Cassie Kopp**

*Rindge Avenue Upper School  
Third Place, Seventh Grade*

Don't you understand?  
I'm not in a silly craze  
Can't you apprehend?  
What you want me to be isn't the case

I want to love myself  
But you make it worse and worse  
I want to be myself  
But it seems that I'm a curse  
A freak  
Unnatural  
A mistake?  
Is that what you think of me?  
A mistake?  
This must be my overthinking. . .

Let me make this loud and clear:  
I'M NOT THE SAME KID A YEAR AGO  
Let me make it loud enough for you to hear  
But there's not enough for me to show

Quit your playing  
Quit your fooling  
Quit your porcelain acting  
I'm done with your pretending

Quit your concern  
Quit your stubbornness  
Now, I know what I've learnt:  
I can't ever do my best

To get through to you, can I?

*(continued next page)*



*(Cassie Kopp, p. 2 of 2)*

Your words cut deep into my eyes  
Deep for me to cry  
Your words cut deep into my throat  
Deep for me to choke  
Your words cut deep into my lungs  
Deep for me to not sing the song I've sung

Can't you see?

Can't you hear?

You say you love me

But the words aren't enough for me to hear

You're lying, aren't you. . . ?



# **"I am down in the dark"**

**Maia Soni**

*Buckingham Browne and Nichols School  
Second Place, Seventh Grade*

I am down in the dark all alone, all alone, by myself,  
While everybody else is soaring high.  
For them it is easy, it is easy to see ahead.  
But for me down here...  
Will I make it? Will I do it? Will I fail?  
It's hard to see ahead when you are so far behind.  
But if I can learn, if I can learn in time, I will be soaring too,  
Further ahead, easier to see now.  
I can be me.  
How far I can see? There is no end.  
No more bends. It is easy to see straight-forward now.  
I am on top of the world.  
I am soaring high, so, so high.  
Soaring, soaring – now I can be meeee.  
Now I can be freeeee.  
I look down and I see people disappearing below the clouds, but I am  
on top of the world.  
I am soaring, I am soaring now.  
I help others down in the dark to soar just like me.  
I can finally seeeee. I am sooooarrrrrinnnnngggg.

# "9/11"

**Malin Kuo**

*St. Paul's Choir School  
Third Place, Fourth Grade*

When bad things  
Strike upon us  
In the distant rubble  
There is a tree  
Still alive  
But almost dead  
Spreading little hope  
But that hope  
Will soon spread  
Like a spark  
Beginning a new flame



**Stella Dia Noelke**  
*Graham & Parks School*  
*Second Place, Fourth Grade*

## друштво

Шта је  
функционално друштво?  
Јер  
ако је дефиниција  
живећи у слози  
онда не  
успевамо

## "Society"

What is  
a functional society?  
Because  
if the definition is  
living in harmony  
then we are not  
succeeding

# **"A Powerful Community"**

A free verse poem

**Clara Zala**

*Graham & Parks School*

*Honorable Mention, Fourth Grade*

Like a tree  
We grow and  
Learn  
But in this time  
Of hope  
And Pain  
We learn more of  
Our world  
The Goods  
And follies  
Like a tree we are  
A powerful community

*(continued next page)*

*(Clara Zala, p. 2 of 3)*

## 강력한 커뮤니티 나무 자유 운문

처럼  
우리는 성장하고  
배웁니다  
그러나 이 시기  
에 희망  
과 고통  
에 대해 더 많이 배웁니다  
우리 세계  
어리  
석음  
나무처럼 우리는  
강력한 공동체입니다

*(continued next page)*

(Clara Zala, p. 3 of 3)

## ***Galinga bendruomenė Laisvas eilėraštis***

*Kaip medis  
Mes augame ir  
mokomės  
bet šiuo  
vilties  
ir skausmo  
mes daugiau sužinome apie  
savo pasaulį  
Gėros  
ir kvailystės  
Kaip medis esame  
galinga bendruomenė*



# **“Three Unedited Short Experimental Thoughts of Wisdom”**

**David Xiong**

*Buckingham Browne and Nichols School  
Second Place, Eighth Grade*

## **I. Forwards, Backwards, and Irony**

The forwards poem  
moep sdrawrof eht  
The irony

meop sdrawkcaB ehT  
The backwards poem  
The irony

The question of forwards and backwards remains unresolved.

## **II. Poem**

Sometimes there is simply a poem titled “poem”,  
Just for the sake of simplicity.  
Sometimes there is a restaurant called “restaurant”,  
Just for the sake of simplicity.  
Sometimes there is summer camp called “summer camp”  
Just for the sake of simplicity.  
Sometimes there is a street called “street”  
Just for the sake of simplicity.  
Sometimes there is a textbook called “textbook”  
Just for the sake of simplicity.

Yes, simplicity is the best,  
If we had not given every place, every work, every paper, every single  
thing in the world a creative name  
If we call this poem “poem”,  
The world would be simpler.

## **III. The Infinite Poem Prompt by David Xiong**

I can’t even write at this point  
So, reader, I’ll leave it to you...  
The poem of infinity continues below...